

**REMARKS**

Applicant, by the amendments presented above, has made a concerted effort to present claims which more clearly define over the prior art of record, and thus to place this case in condition for allowance.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claims 6, 14, 15 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph***

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended claim 7 to be dependent upon claim 3 to provide proper antecedent basis.

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)***

Claims 1-4 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,662,101 to Ogden. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 16 to further clarify the sliding strap. Applicant respectfully submits that Ogden does not provide a flexible sliding strap that slides over a

patient interface. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 1-4 and 16 are not anticipated by Ogden. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4 and 16 is requested.

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103***

Claims 8-11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Ogden. Claims 8-11 and 13 are dependent upon claim 1 which Applicant submits is in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 8-11 and 13 are allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 8-11 and 13 is requested.

***Priority Claim***


Applicant again requests acknowledgment of the completion of the priority claim for this application in the next Office Action.

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the application are allowable over the rejections of the Examiner. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Sept. 22, 2005

By:

  
Raiford A. Blackstone, Jr., Reg. No. 25,156  
Linda L. Palomar, Reg. No. 37,903

TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI  
BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.  
105 W. Adams Street  
Suite 3600  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
(312) 704-1890

862932